

Secretary Report

January 27, 2024

- At the last regular Club meeting I still had some 2023 meeting minutes to complete. Those have all been done and on the website for quite some time. I have them labeled as draft, but if I can get a motion to approve all meeting minutes current to date, that would be appreciated.
- I am sure that everyone noticed that for the first time we have a for real flag for this meeting. Kathy and I wanted for us to have one and so that is our gift to the Club. We were careful to buy one that was made in the USA.
- Going back to the December 8th Christmas party, everyone seemed generally pleased with the Christmas party venue. The officers intend to continue doing it at Magel's unless the group tells us they want to do it elsewhere.
- A website Club News update was put out last week. There is a recap of the Christmas party, pictures, a video that Jerry Keisler provided and several awards were given out. The award trophies have proven challenging to photograph. You may not know it but Steven Lott Smith is a professional photographer and taught photography in Baton Rouge as I recall. He has shown me how to build a light box to do their pictures and that is on my list to do very soon.

Other items covered were that dues is now due on January 1st each year. \$24 for individuals and \$36 for families. If you have not paid, please see Rick Leonhardt or myself. Jerry Keisler is now scheduling two Fox Hunts each month and we also have a SKYWARN training notice up. Finally, the board has set a meeting for February 27th. Details to be announced.

- Today we have Steven Lott Smith here in his capacity as the North Texas ARRL Section Manager and he is going to do a presentation on ARES and RACES. As a reminder, at the February meeting we will have guest lecturer Dr. Mike Durbin doing a presentation. Then in March and April we will have presentations by Cliff Leath and Ben York, showing us the "go box" kits they have built.
- Reference the Club website, I continue to evolve it's presence and have substantial enhancements planned for 2024. One feature I want to add is an easier ability for members to upload pictures to the forums. This year is the first year where most member dues renewals were done via PayPal. When it is done that way the membership record is automatically updated. Since we expire everyone on January 1st that is a lot of work compressed into a small time. I know there were some glitches, poor Jesse Hembre and several other people did

not get their status updated automatically. That was because I had misconfigured one feature. I am not a professional computer programmer or site developer, so thanks to all for your patience as I self-taught and troubleshot the problem. Other enhancements are that I am going to add a feature that will show member stats for the forums. How many posts people have made will be under their profile name. Why would that be interesting? Some have no idea just how helpful the site is in general and the forums specifically. Who here other than Rick and I has any idea how many website hits we had last week? Over 600. For a Club with 54 members that is astonishing traffic. I plan to use that number marketing our Club to corporate sponsors this year. Some people have asked that I do a future presentation showing some features of the site and I will add that for an upcoming meeting.

- Speaking of dues, we only have twelve people that have not paid yet. Please do so as soon as possible. The officers made the change to expire everyone on January 1st so the treasurer would not have to chase people all year to get them to pay up. Even without upgrades and enhancements to the repeater site, website, etc., we still have ongoing expenses. From the mailbox to flowers to members who are hospitalized and this meeting room; member dues for now fund the vast majority of our expenses. Money is tight, we understand. If you have a hardship situation, please come see me or Rick and we will see what can be worked out.
- We will have officer elections at the March meeting. The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer offices will be filled at that time. George has made the comment to many of us that he will be unable to serve another term. The officers have recruited Rick Leonhardt to the position. Some or all of the rest of us may or may not be willing to do another term. We continue to talk about it amongst ourselves. Want some fresh blood, but we are also committed to make sure that the Club is left better than we found it and I personally have some uncompleted goals. If you are interested, please be prepared to raise your hand in March. The new term of office begins on April 1st.
- At the conclusion of today's meeting I will be heading to Winter Field Day. If anyone cares to follow me, please just let me know while we are breaking the room down.